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Senate approves ban on sexually explicit displays

LANSING — Sen. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, announced passage of House Bill 4360, a common-sense, bipartisan effort to ban public displays of sexually explicit material.

The effort to change the law came about from complaints from parents who had taken their children to use the facilities at places such as gas stations, only to find prominent displays of pornographic magazines and other such material in the business.

Under the bill, which now heads to Gov. Granholm for approval, such material has to be kept from public view either by covering the bottom two-thirds of it or by keeping it in restricted areas that prevents access by minors unaccompanied by guardians.

“This bill helps ensure children aren’t exposed to sexually explicit material just because they’ve entered a neighborhood store,” Cropsey said.

Cropsey chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee that recommended approval of the bill.

The bill also would eliminate language in existing law that deals with Internet pornography. That part of the law was struck down by a federal judge in 1999 and never was enforced.